



Jay Inslee
Governor
State of Washington

April 5, 2019

The Honorable Michael Doyle
U.S. House of Representatives
306 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Edward J. Markey
United States Senate
255 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Congressman Doyle and Senator Markey:

I write to commend you for your leadership in restoring net neutrality rules that ensure a level playing field for consumers and innovators across the country. This is as critical as freedom of speech. I am pleased to offer my strong support for the Save the Internet Act (H.R. 1644/S. 682), which fully reinstates the Open Internet Order adopted by Federal Communications Commission (FCC) in 2015, and I encourage the House and Senate to pass this important bill without delay.

All Americans, as a matter of principle, should enjoy equal access to the educational, social, and economic power of the internet. Ensuring this important technology remains free and unfettered is vital both to our personal freedoms and to our country's economy. The internet has become an unparalleled economic engine, generating millions of new jobs while providing even the smallest businesses in the United States access to a global marketplace. Washington State has seen firsthand how innovative internet companies have the capacity to transform the way middle-class families shop, travel, enjoy entertainment, and buy homes. It is incumbent on all of us to preserve the open foundation of the internet for the next generation of innovators and consumers.

That's why, as a longtime proponent of net neutrality, I vigorously opposed the FCC's misguided and harmful decision to repeal these well-founded rules in December 2017. I have long held that it should be the policy of the U.S. to ensure internet service providers (ISPs) are never allowed to control or obstruct the free flow of information over the internet, unreasonably discriminate against lawful network traffic, block or throttle access to lawful websites, use paid prioritization, or otherwise engage in unreasonable or discriminatory practices that hinder innovation and harm consumers. By repealing the 2015 rules the FCC undermined these core principles, and for the first time allowed broadband providers to pick winners and losers in the 21st century economy.

I am proud that my state took swift action to protect Washingtonians from the FCC's rollback by becoming the first state in the nation to enact our own net neutrality rules. I am also proud that our state's leadership spurred action in a number of other states to preserve an open internet, including California, Oregon, and Vermont. However, states recognize these actions are no

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replacement for the FCC's 2015 Open Internet Order. That order not only enshrined net neutrality rules in all 50 states but also empowered the FCC and harnessed the power of the federal government to hold ISPs accountable, investigate violations and complaints, ensure strong transparency for consumers, prevent the gaming of future loopholes, and ensure a truly free and open internet for every American. Any federal legislation that falls short of a full restoration of the 2015 rules would be an inadequate solution to one of the most important issues of our time.

As your former colleague, I am truly grateful to you both for your leadership and tireless advocacy on this issue. Restoring net neutrality rules will ensure large corporations are never in the position of deterring innovation, obstructing entrepreneurship, or disenfranchising individuals. Congress should pass the Save the Internet Act immediately to enable digital innovation across the country to grow unbridled by corporate interference.

If you have any questions please contact the Director of my Washington, D.C. Office, Casey Katims, at Casey.Katims@gov.wa.gov. Thank you.

Very truly yours,



Jay Inslee
Governor

CC: The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Chuck Schumer, Minority Leader, United States Senate